What is claimed is:

1.   A computer implemented method of exchanging data between software applications comprising:

publishing a list of one or more data fields used by one or more software applications;

mapping the published data fields;

flagging mapped data fields by at least one of the one or more software applications;

matching flagged data fields with a super-schema to define a sub-schema; and

using the sub-schema to validate data files to be exchanged by the one or more software applications.

2.   A computer implemented method of a first software application exchanging data with a second software application comprising:

publishing a list of one or more data fields used by the first software application; wherein the published data fields are mapped to a list of data fields used by the second software application;

flagging a subset of the mapped published data fields; wherein the flagged data fields are matched with a super-schema to define a sub-schema; and

using the sub-schema to validate data files to be exchanged with the second software application.

3.   A computer implemented method of a first software application exchanging data with a second software application comprising:

receiving a list of one or more data fields used by the second software application;

mapping the received data fields to a list of data fields used by the first software application;

receiving a request identifier file flagging a subset of the mapped received data fields;

matching the flagged data fields with a super-schema to define a sub-schema; and

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using the sub-schema to validate data files to be exchanged with the second software application.

4.   A computer system for exchanging data between software applications comprising:

a processor for receiving and transmitting data; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory having stored therein sequences of instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to publish a list of one or more data fields used by one or more software applications, map the published data fields to other published data fields, flag a subset of the mapped data fields, match the flagged data fields with a super-schema to define a sub-schema, and use the sub-schema to validate data files to be exchanged by the one or more software applications.

5.   The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:
monitoring published data field for flag changes.

6.   The method as claimed in claim 2 further comprising:
monitoring published data field for flag changes.

7.   The method as claimed in claim 3 further comprising:
monitoring published data field for flag changes.

8.   The system as claimed in claim 4 further comprising instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to:
monitor published data fields for flag changes.

9.   The method as claimed in claim 5 further comprising:
updating the sub-schema in accordance with monitored flag changes of the published data fields.

10.   The method as claimed in claim 6 further comprising:

updating the sub-schema in accordance with monitored flag changes of the published data fields.

11.   The method as claimed in claim 7 further comprising:

updating the sub-schema in accordance with monitored flag changes of the published data fields.

12.   The system as claimed in claim 8 further comprising instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to:

update the sub-schema in accordance with monitored flag changes of the published data fields.